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Confirming the Churches

world evangelistic work of Al Parr
Greensboro Road Church of Christ

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December Report

December 26, 2012

Dear brethren, family and friends,

As is usually the case in many elements of American society, December has been a relatively short month insofar as regards the progress of this work. Yet, as you may have noticed already in the header of this page, it has been the most important month so far in this work: we have a sponsoring church.

The Greensboro Road Church of Christ in Jonesboro, Arkansas has long had a determined commitment to preach the original gospel of Jesus Christ near and far. Tracing to 1901 its roots as an organized church – and even earlier in some of those Christians who formed that first church in Jonesboro – Greensboro Road sees an unbroken line of sound gospel preaching at home and the planting of churches in Jonesboro, across Arkansas and beyond. Love for souls in all of life's ways is seen in their support, for over a century, of those who care for orphaned children. Current elders of the Greensboro Road Church of Christ are Dan Nichols, Randy Oden and Jody Pickens. Local preachers are Terry Joe Kee and Kelly Rowe. Mission support goes to Arnold Kelley, Brock Kendall, Ratna Raju Rapaka and Will Sadler... and now to Al Parr and Confirming the Churches. Referring to those who made the Greensboro Road church what it is today, the current leaders say on their web site, "May we work as diligently to leave the church in better condition than we found it and may generations to come continue to be blessed by our efforts for good."

Contributions should now be sent to Greensboro Road at the address in the header of this letter. Please clearly mark your check "For Al Parr mission work."

The Harrisburg Church of Christ has long been a supporter of this work, and of me personally. Their backing has given me the time and encouragement to continue in the sometimes tedious, and occasionally disappointing, work of laying the foundation for this long-planned mission. Without that support we would not be where we are today, having an excellent group of churches and individuals prepared to begin supporting the work in the new year, and with churches in many states and several countries asking for our help.

The calendar for 2013 has filled up nicely over these five months of preparation, but there is still some room in it for missions in the planning. From January 31 through March 2 I am to be in India, with a side trip to Dubai. Sometime (dates still unconfirmed) in the six weeks after my return to the U.S. I plan a short series of lessons in each of two east Texas churches. A mission is in the works for June in a northeastern state. One week is planned, and a second has been suggested, in Guyana in July. Discussions are ongoing for a possible 2-week mission to Nigeria in August, and I have an invitation to preach in Kenya while in Africa at that time. On these missions my work will include teaching in a preacher training school, at least 2 gospel meetings, an undetermined number of 1-day lectureships for gatherings of preachers, food and clothing distribution in at least two locations, literature distribution, a vacation Bible school, and the multi-faceted interviews in the Dubai visit: a feasibility study with a view to opening an extension there of International Bible Academe.

In most years there probably won't be that much time outside the U.S., but these are long-standing works or long-awaited invitations. Discussions are continuing with churches in South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, and Michigan for various programs to help build up those churches. Some of these probably won't be scheduled for 2013, but if you know a church that needs what help we may be able to give, please let me know as soon as possible.

As you know, the work of Confirming the Churches includes the production and distribution of literature, and time must be reserved for that – but already we have made good progress here. I spent a week in early December in the quietness of my brother's country home in central Indiana to finish the study guide on the Holy Spirit. That manuscript is now with the printer in Hyderabad. The book is to be the text for my first week of lessons at International Bible Academe (the second week is to be studies in Paul's letters to the church in Thessalonika). Manuscripts of six tracts have also been sent to Hyderabad, and I expect to have at least one more ready within the next two weeks.

Lodging and meals were provided in December by Sasha & Angela Babenko, Randy & Diana Parr and Keith & Cheryl Cozort. This, too, is mission work, as Paul writes, “how shall they preach except they be sent?” (Romans 10:15). The work of the church (preaching the gospel to the world, Ephesians 3:10) cannot be accomplishment by one person, or merely by a group of preachers going everywhere; it takes the teamwork of the whole church. What can you do to help this work? Consider some of the specific opportunities:

1. Financial help is still needed, both in my personal support and in the work fund. Can you contribute personally, or spread the word to churches or families who might?
2. Brother N. Vijaya Rao, preaching in Ibrahimpatnam and helping others elsewhere, needs financial support. Ask for details, or send your contribution to Greensboro Road marked for Vijaya Rao in care of Al Parr.
3. Many churches across America could benefit from the help we can offer, but don't know that it is available. If you know of any such churches, can you tell them to look at the web site (www.acts1541.org), and contact me? -or tell me how to contact them?
4. The elders of the church in Ibrahimpatnam want to open the Sister Chris Parr Home for Widows and Orphans. They are already helping many widows and orphans, but these are scattered across the city, and some of them are homeless. Many churches in India support such homes because there is a large number of people in dire need of such help. Can you contribute to this much needed work in honor of my late wife?
5. In two cities in India I have been asked to distribute clothing of all sizes for both men and women, boys and girls. Can you donate new or used clothing in good condition (or even a monetary contribution that I might buy needed clothing for the exceptionally impoverished Christians in these two cities)? My mail address is 45935 Spring Lane, Apt. 206, Shelby Township, MI 48317. Your donations need to arrive not later than January 24, 2013.
6. Preachers use bicycles for transportation in India. These bicycles are not expensive by American standards (\$60 each), but are beyond the means of most preachers, and they wear out with the constant use on unserviced roads (or in traveling where there are no roads). Can you buy a bicycle for a preacher?

Surely there is some small amount you can send in your service to the Lord of Heaven and earth. Lay up for yourself treasure in Heaven, and be a part of this team to encourage Christians and strengthen churches of Christ. Thank you, and I know that God will richly bless you.

In His service,

A. L. Parr
alparr@acts1541.org

Contributions (in addition to the lodging and meals mentioned above):

Drucilla McIntire	\$15
Greensboro Road church	\$800
Russell & Shirley Cozort	\$500

(Make checks payable to Church of Christ and designate For: Al Parr mission work)